

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 261444Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, JO

SUBJ: QADOUM CONTROVERSY INTENSIFIES

REF: TEL AVIV 1802

BEGIN SUMMARY: AS CABINET DEBATE ON QADOUM DRAWS NEAR, KEY COALITION AND OPPOSITION LEADERS CONTINUE TO STAKE OUT THEIR PUBLIC POSITIONS. ALLON AND ZADOK HAVE EXPRESSED SHARP OPPOSITION TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE QADOUM SETTLEMENT WHILE NRP MINISTER RAPHAEL HAS VOICED CONFIDENCE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WILL BE FOUND AND LIKUD LEADER BEGIN HAS WARNED OF A GOVERNMENT CRISIS IF SETTLERS ARE FORCIBLY REMOVED. PRESS REPORTS THAT CABINET WORDSMITH GALILI IS WORKING OUT COMPROMISE FORMULA, BUT LOCAL OBSERVERS ARE VERY CHARY ABOUT PREDICTING OUTCOME OF CABINET SHOWDOWN WHICH MAY COME MAY 9 OR 16. END SUMMARY.

1. JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK AT A LABOR PARTY SYMPOSIUM APRIL 24 SAID THAT THE GOVT HAD ERRED IN PERMITTING SETTLE-
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MENT IN QADOUM. URGING THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RULE OF

LAW IN ISRAEL, ZADOK SAID THAT THE QADOUM SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE AREA AS ASSON AS POSSIBLE , EVEN IF THIS REQUIRED THE USE OF FORCE. HE ADDED THAT AS A MINISTER IN THE CABINET HE WAS JUST AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SETTLERS AS THE REST OF HIS COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, WHEN THE CABINET AGAIN DISCUSSES ITS SETTLEMENT POLICY, HE WILL INSIST THAT THE QADOUM SETTLEMENT BE EVACUATED. ZADOK'S SPEECH CONTAINED ABITTER ATTACK ON GUSH EMUNIM WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A BODY OF RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS AND EXTREME NATIONALISTS WHICH POSED A GREATER DANGER TO ISRAELI DEMOCRACY THAN THE RAKAH COMMUNISTS.

2. IN A TV INTERVIEW APRIL 25 FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD POSTPONED HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. INTER ALIA IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN THE YET UUN-SCHEDULED DEBATE. ALLON SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE GOVT OFFER THE QADOUM SETTLERS THE CHANCE TO SETTLE IN "AN EVEN MORE PROMISING PLACE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVT GUIDLINES., BUT FIRMLY REJECT UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS.

3. AN OPPOSING VIEW WAS EXPRESSED BY LIKUD LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN WHO TOLD THE HERUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE APRIL 25 THAT IF THE GOVT GOES THROUGH WITH WHAT HE CALLED ITS APPARENT INTENTION TO EVICT THE QADOUM SETTLERS, THE LIKUD WILL CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE KNESSET THAT VERY DAY TO DEFEAT THE MOVE. BEGIN CLAIMED THAT THERE ARE 62 (OUT OF 120) KNESSET MEMBERS WHO OPPOSE THE EVICTION OF GUSH EMUNIM FROM QADOUM. BEGIN MADE HIS CALCULATION BY COUNTING THE LIKUD (38), THE NRP AND THE AGUDA FRONT (15), RAFI (7), AND MKS SEIDEL AND ARBELI-ASMOLINO.

4. RELIGIOUS MINISTER YITZHAK RAFAEL (NRP) REPORTDLY TOLD HIS PARTY FACTION THAT -AS FAR AS I AM FAMILIAR WITH THIS CABINET AND ESPECIALLY WITH THIS PRIME MINISTER THERE IS NO FEAR THAT THE QADOUM SETTLERS WILL BE FORCIBLY REMOVED. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CABINET WILL APPROVE CONTINUED SETTLEMENT IN ALL PARTS OF ERETZ ISRAEL ACCORDING TO AN ORDER OF PRIORITIES DICATED BY THE TRUE NEEDS OF THE STATE..."

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5. IN ANALYZING BEHIND THE SCENES GOVT ACTIVITY, JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU) REPORTS APRIL 26 THAT THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENT HEADED BY MINISTER ISRAEL GALILI HAS ALREADY HELD SEVERAL SESSIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT A CONSENSUS FORMULA ON GOVT-APPROVED SETTLEMENT, WITH A SPECIFIC ORDER OF PRIORITIES --AND SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE SETTLEMENT IS NOT TO BE AUTHORIZED. "BUT THE COMMITTEE WHICH COMPRISES MINISTERS OF ALL COLAITION PARTIES APPEARED

NOT TO HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT, AND MAY BE UNABLE TO SUBMIT A UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL CABINET. MORE LIKELY, GALILI HIMSELF WILL HELP THE PRIME MINISTER DURING THIS WEEK TO SEEK A FORMULA THAT CAN GAIN MAXIMAL SUPPORT IN THE CABINET. SUCH A FORMULA WOULD STRESS THE GOVT'S DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS RATHER THAN DISCOURAGE IT IN OTHER AREAS."

6. IN SHARP EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES, HAARETZ AND JERUSALEM POST ON APRIL 26 HAVE CALLED ON THE GOVT TO TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST THE QADDUM SETTLERS, AND HAVE DELINEATED THE UNDERLYING ISSUES. JERUSALEM POST NOTES THAT "THE REAL TROUBLE WITH GUSH EMUNIM IS NOT THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ISRAEL FREEDOMS TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON ANY RATIONAL ARGUMENT ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. THE TROUBLE IS RATHER THAT THEY SEEM TO BE MAKING SOME HEADWAY IN THE EFFORT TO FORCE THEIR BRAND OF IRRATIONALITY ON THE GOVT. THAT, OBVIOUSLY, IS THE MOTIVE BEHIND GUSH EMUNIM'S ATTEMPTS AT SETTLING ALL OVER THE WEST BANK--BUT NOT, SPECIFICALLY, AT THE OUTLYING AREAS LISTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER LAST WEEK. TRUSTING TO THE RELUCTANCE OF THE AUTHORITIES TO SEND JEWISH TROOPS TO EVICT JEWISH SETTLERS, THEY EXPECT TO ESTABLISH JUST ABOUT ENOUGH SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREAS, WITH OR WITHOUT OFFICIAL SANCTION, TO MAKE IT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVT TO EVER NEGOTIATE THE EVACUATION OF ANY PART OF JUDEA OR SAMARIA." HAARETZ IN SIMILAR VEIN COMMENTS THAT "THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE ARE NO LONGER PREPARED TO PUT UP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S SHILLY-SHALLYING. THE GOVT MUST TAKE A DECISION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH THE WEST BANK ARABS AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IS AGAINST ANY SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO KNOW WHETHER GOVT POLICIES ARE TO BE DICTATED BY GUSH EMUNIM, WHICH HAS ONLY BEEN AS DARING AS IT HAS BECAUSE OF THE GOVT'S VACILLATION."
TOON

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